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Question 15.

When in our history was the last time an American vessel was boarded on the high seas in international waters; and the ship taken as a prize?

Answer

On 15 January 1815, the USS President was captured off New York by four British warships and taken into the British Navy. The vessel was captured when it ran aground in trying to run a British blockade.

The USS Manning Light a small blockade steamer, on 21 January 1863 was captured off the Sabine Pass, 20NM in the Gulf of Mexico, by two Confederate cotton clads.

The Manning Light was, of course, captured during the Civil War, so that the last peacetime incident of a generally comparable nature was that of 1815, shortly after the end of the War of 1812.

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